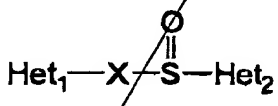
given to charge Deposit Account No. 23-1701 in the amount of Four Hundred Dollars ($400.00) to cover the corresponding extension fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(a)(2) and 1.136(a).

IN THE CLAIMS:

Substitute claims 1, 18, 26 and 27 with amended claims 1, 18, 26 and 27:

1. (Four times amended) A method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion which comprises administering to a host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



I

wherein

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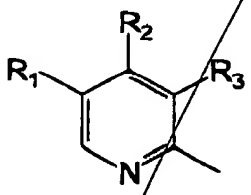

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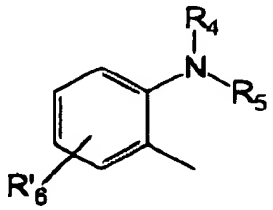

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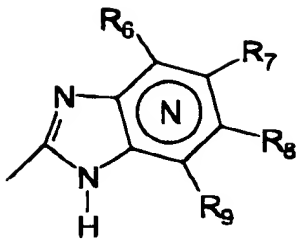

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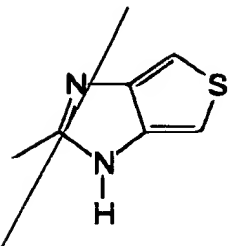

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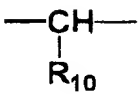

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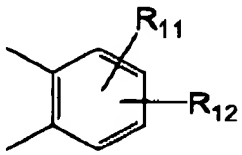


wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

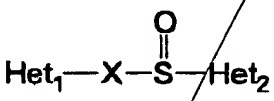
R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

R_6-R_9 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, halogen, halo-alkoxy, alkylcarbonyl, alkoxycarbonyl, oxazolyl, trifluoroalkyl, or adjacent groups R_6-R_9 form ring structures which may be further substituted;

R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl.

18. (Thrice amended) A method of treatment for improving the inhibition of gastric acid secretion which comprises administering to a host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



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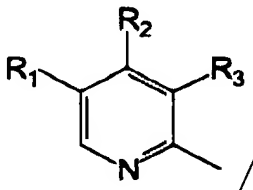
wherein

Het_1 is



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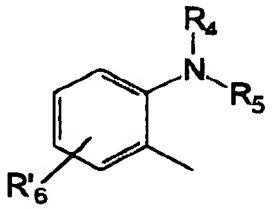

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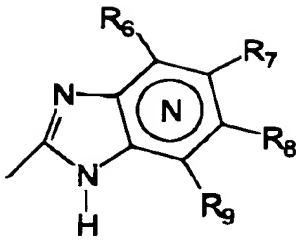

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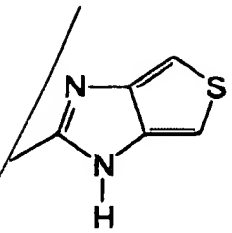

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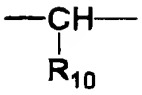

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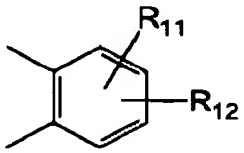

wherein

N in the benzimidazole moiety means that one of the ring carbon atoms substituted by R_6-R_9 optionally may be exchanged for a nitrogen atom without any substituents;

R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;

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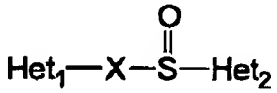
R_{10} is hydrogen or forms an alkylene chain together with R_3; and

R_{11} and R_{12} are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen or alkyl

with the proviso that the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is not pantoprazole.

26. (Twice amended) A method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion which comprises administering to a host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



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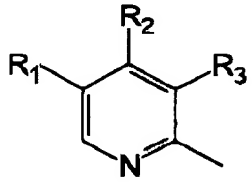
wherein

Het_1 is



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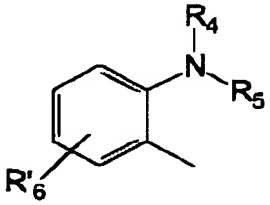

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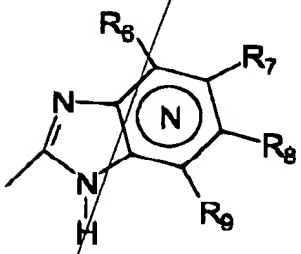

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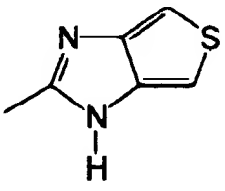

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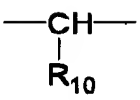

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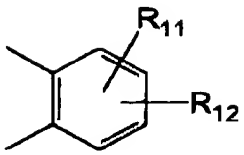

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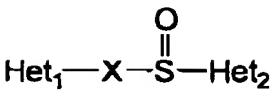
27. (Twice amended) A method for improving the treatment of gastrointestinal disorders associated with excess acid secretion which comprises administering to host in need thereof an oral pharmaceutical formulation comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an acid labile H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, wherein the method induces an extended blood plasma profile of the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor, and the H^+, K^+-ATPase inhibitor is a compound of the formula I



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wherein

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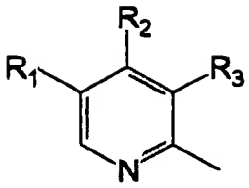

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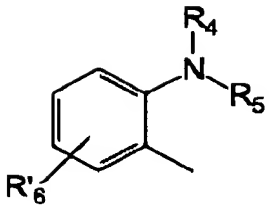

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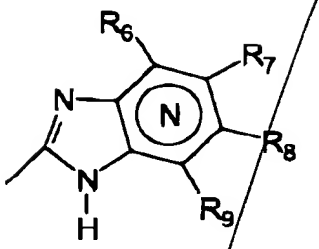

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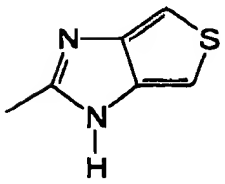

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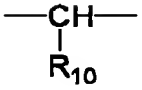

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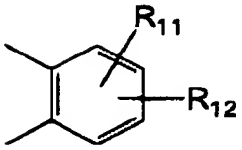

wherein

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R_1, R_2 and R_3 are the same or different and selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, fluorine-substituted alkoxy, alkylthio, alkoxyalkoxy, dialkylamino, piperidino, morpholino, halogen, phenyl and phenylalkoxy;